

Our Fiftieth Issue! OUT OF TIME

Issue No. 50 *Out of Control--Lesbian Committee to Support Women Political Prisoners*

Dec 1999

PUERTO RICO UPDATE

By Denise Alvarado

On September 10, 1999, after 19 years of incarceration and a lengthy campaign to gain their release, 11 of 15 Puerto Rican political prisoners walked through the gates of maximum security prisons throughout the United States, out from the confines of their cells to a partial freedom. It was a conditional release granted by President Bill Clinton, marred with the most strict parole conditions, but a release nonetheless and a huge, huge victory for Puerto Ricans and all justice loving people in the United States and throughout the world! I have been gifted in this life to be touched by a few of these great patriots, those free and those still behind bars, and would like to share with you how some are doing.



A few months before her release from prison, Puerto Rican Nationalist Alicia Rodríguez, who is an accomplished potter, made cups for everyone in Out Of Control. It was expression of her gratitude for our work and we were all very touched, not to mention very happy to have these beautiful mugs. Speaking of mugs... left to right: Blue, Madeline, Ty, Julie (standing), Bo and Diane.

Dylcia Pagán: I spoke with Dylcia over Thanksgiving weekend. She's meeting lots of people and is very upbeat and excited about her new life. She has been offered a job producing film (she was into that media before she was arrested), working on a documentary of her life in prison, and building her portfolio. She's been speaking at the universities and other places, is distributing the documentary "The Double Life of Ernesto Gómez Gómez" (by Gary Weinberg and Kathy Ryan), and has met with Geraldo Rivera with the possibility of appearing on his show next year. She sounds terrific!

Carmen Valentín: Carmen is also meeting people and speaking at various events, but she is trying more to concentrate on her family. Her aged mother suffers from Alzheimer's so Carmen spends much of her time with her mom, caring for her and giving her the love she has wanted to show her during all those long years in prison. Carmen is also spending time with her granddaughter Karina, helping her with her homework and taking her to the beach nearby. Carmen does take the long bus ride from El Condado where she lives to her sister's house in Bayamon to visit her mom. Anyone who knows Puerto Rico is aware of the "adventure" that is. She went to the movies for the first time by herself in many years and was excited about that.

Adolfo Matos: Adolfo was welcomed to his hometown of Lajas as a hero. A caravan of cars came to greet him headed by the mayor of that pueblo. He's had some bouts with flu and congestion, things that bothered him while in prison,

but he's very high-spirited. He has a job working with children and youth teaching them his craft of high relief copper art. He lives alone in the house where his father lived. He says that his favorite task is communing with the young people. Adolfo has always been great with kids.

Alberto Rodríguez: I saw Alberto for the first time in almost 2 years over the Halloween weekend. We actually helped another friend of ours move! He's living with his daughter close by Paseo Boricua in Chicago, taking walks and riding his bicycle. To make money he's doing handyman jobs, which naturally is a challenge when one is carting one's tools on the back of a bike. He'd be interested in speaking at some universities in the US, so if anyone has an interest be sure to be in touch via this paper.

Oscar López Rivera: I visited with Oscar during the Halloween weekend, too. He is one of the Nationalists that was left behind. Oscar is very principled, a great man to the core. I brought along his daughter, Clarissa, his granddaughter, Karina, and his sister, Clara. The love and devotion within that family is something to behold. Oscar is upbeat and fearless, but still has 22 years left to serve making him 79 years old when he is finally released if we don't get him out before then. His needs are the same as every prisoner, money, letters, visits, etc. We're in the process now of trying to find a running shoe distributor so that the inmates can buy shoes from the outside which are far better quality than those sold by the prison. The catch is they must be white.

NEWS FROM LAURA WHITEHORN

OOC asked Laura for notes after four months out of prison.

Greetings to all friends and comrades inside and out. I am doing fine, though aching with missing my comrades inside. Especially at this time of year, when I think of sharing eggnog and chocolate with certain dear comrades of my heart....

I'm getting ready for a few events this coming weekend (12/4-5) — a panel discussion organized by NY Jericho on the meaning of Political Prisoners, John Brown, Mumia, and Fred Hampton (on the 30th anniversary of Fred's assassination), and an afternoon of writing cards to political prisoners, as well as talking about the prisoners and the work supporting them. There are always many political events happening here. Most recently, there were demos against the WTO to complement the great ones in Seattle, and a variety of protests and commemorations for World AIDS Day. And events in support of Mumia continue, though never enough...

Personally, I am feeling very fortunate. People ask me about my adjustment to life outside the walls, and comment that it seems to be surprisingly smooth. I think the reason that is true is that all of you on the West Coast, along with many from other parts of the country, worked so hard over the years to ensure that political prisoners were not isolated from your movements and activities. During my last years in FCI Dublin, you allowed me to be involved in planning and shaping political events outside, like Sparks Fly

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Marilyn and Jane with Puerto Rican Nationalist, Carmen Valentín, at a victory party in San Francisco the day she was released.

Many, many thanks to the Wardlaws for their generous funding of this issue of Out of Time.

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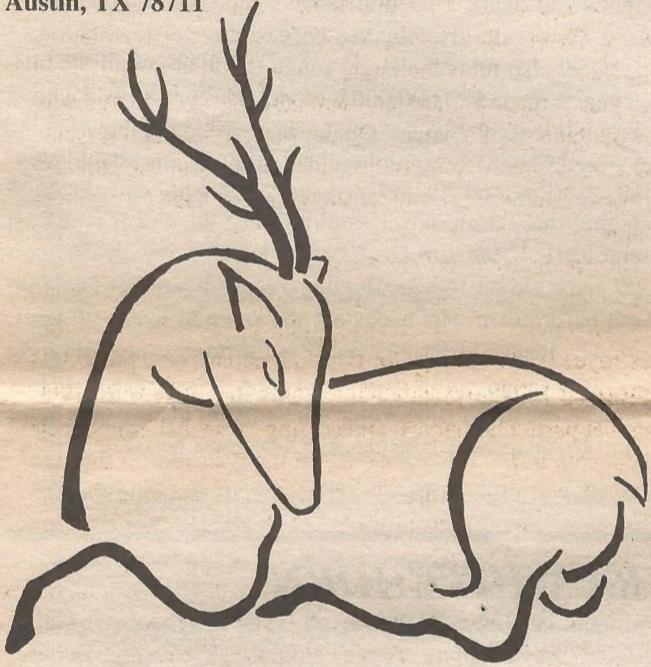
OUT OF TIME

Parole Letters of Support for Standing Deer

Standing Deer is in Pack One Prison in Navasota, Texas doing a life sentence for bank robbery. No one was killed or injured during the crime. Even though Standing Deer experienced his own spiritual rehabilitation more than 21 years ago, he has remained in prison for almost 24 years. 20 years ago, he exposed the governmental conspiracy to assassinate Leonard Peltier.

Please tell the parole board and Governor Bush that even though Standing Deer did commit a crime many years ago he is no longer a threat to society. He is old and sick, let him finally come home in February 2000.

Please send your letter of support to: TDCJ Pardons and Parole Division, P.O. Box 13401 Capitol Station, Austin, TX 78711. Please include the following: At top of letter please title it "Letter of Support" with the name of "Robert H. Wilson #640289". Please send the original letter to the parole board and a copy, marked "copy" to SDDC, P.O. Box 368, Carrollton, GA 30117. Also, letters may go to Governor George W. Bush at: P.O. Box 12428, Austin, TX 78711



Standing Deer's Health Alert

Standing Deer is very sick. He missed his high blood pressure medicine for 2 weeks because he was in too much pain to get to the infirmary. We are afraid that w/out taking his medications he will suffer a stroke or heart attack. Standing Deer's request is to have his aspirin included in his DOT along w/ his Clonidine. The prison will do this only if Dr. Scamardo orders it. We ask that you write letters stating that Robert H. Wilson #640289 needs aspirin to be included in his DOT along with Clonidine. This way, he will not have to wait in line for an hour.

We have no doubt that the prison knows full well of what they are doing. They are trying to quietly kill Standing Deer. Your letters of support will be gratefully appreciated. Just a short note if you are not comfortable in any long explanation. Please send letters immediately to: Dr. Scamardo, Pack Unit Infirmary, 2400 Wallace Pack RD. Navasota, TX 77869 and Dr. Lannette Linthicum, Director, TDCJ Health Services, 3009 Highway 30 West, Huntsville, TX 77340

To find out more about Standing Deer send for a copy of his book: Coming Home: the Birth of Spirit in America's Gulag \$15.00 to SDDC, PO Box 368, Carrollton, Ga 30117 by Barbara Fortier, Standing Deer Defense Committee, PO Box 368, Carrollton, GA 30117.

<http://standingdeer.homepage.com/index.html>

EDDIE HATCHER BACK IN JAIL

On June 1, Indian activist and ex-political prisoner Eddie Hatcher was arrested. He was immediately taken to North Carolina's highest security prison in Raleigh and placed in maximum security lock down. Eddie is being charged with a drive-by shooting that resulted in a death. However, there are some things that just don't make sense. Like: Eddie has a permanent injury to his left elbow that would not allow him the mobility to hold & fire a rifle while driving a 5 speed pickup. There also seems to be obvious discrepancies in the ballistics around what guns were fired and what bullets actually were found in the body, and somethings are actually missing or just omitted or maybe just forgotten (hah!). Further questions surround the statements of unreliable snitches and fabricated stories by at least one police officer. And finally there are shell casings from a yet unnamed weapon. As Eddie sez: "...What's interesting is the detective found shell casings matching another weapon but refused to turn over any test results. With this, it is safe to say that the state now is trying to say I was driving the 5 speed truck and not only shooting the SKS rifle but also another weapon as well..." All of this and they still have NO motive for the murder.

Eddie Hatcher is known worldwide for an action in Feb'88 when he occupied the offices of the Robesonian newspaper in Lumberton, N.C., in a desperate attempt to focus attention on corruption in that county. The demands were that the federal government investigate local and state officials' involvement in major drug trafficking and more than 2 dozen unsolved murders of mostly Native and Black people. The takeover ended peacefully and local folks made sure that Eddie was not shot during surrender. Hatcher became the 1st person prosecuted under the Reagan anti-terrorist act of '84. Seven witnesses scheduled to testify in support of Eddie were murdered or died under suspicious circumstances. Eddie Hatcher was acquitted in a federal court but the state of North Carolina pursued (Eddie ran out west and was captured in San Francisco), and in Feb '90 he was given 18 yrs. The National Council of Churches declared Eddie a political prisoner in 1993, and he was also recognized by Amnesty International. During the 7 yrs Eddie served in prison; he was stabbed in the back resulting in a punctured lung and he was diagnosed with AIDS.

After his release, Eddie returned home to Robeson County and continued being very vocal about local politics and questioning the actions of the local powers that be. In fact, Eddie was contemplating running for local office as there was obviously need for some alternative choices for the community. We add here that Robeson County continues to be notorious for drug trafficking and corruption and poverty. The perfect setting for another fake trial, only this time the state is going for 1st degree murder and asking for the death penalty based on Eddie's past record. Eddie is acting as his own attorney and has need of your help.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

1. Please send \$ or stamps to Eddie's mother: Hatcher Defense, box 2702, Pembroke, N.C. 28372. This is essential since Thelma's trying to do a small newsletter for those who do not have the privilege of computers.
2. Contact Governor Jim Hunt, 116 West Jones St., Raleigh, N.C. 27603. fax 919.715.3175. Demand a fair trial and let him know you will continue to observe the case.
3. Write Chief Justice Henry Fry, N.C. Supreme Court, box 2170, Raleigh, N.C. 27602. Demand a fair trial with access to all legal materials and an end to harassment of Eddie Hatcher.
4. Write to Eddie at Central Prison, 1300 Western Blvd., Raleigh, NC 27602. If you want to send money, please send a postal money order only.

MUMIA ABU-JAMAL

- 1) By December 7, Mumia's lawyers are to submit a memorandum of law citing the relevant legal precedents for the requests they have made in their petition for a writ of habeas corpus.
 - 2) The state then has 60 days in which to submit a reply.
 - 3) Then Mumia's team has 20 days to submit a rejoinder of up to 20 pages.
- This will take us to near the end of February. When the judge gets all the paperwork, he will then set a date for the first major court appearance, at which time he may rule on questions such as granting an evidentiary hearing. Thus Mumia's first court appearance is likely to be in early March, but could be later depending on the judge's calendar and case load.
- International Friends and Family of Mumia Abu-Jamal, PO Box 19709, Phila. PA 19143 or www.freemumia.org.

QUEER PRISONERS NEED SUPPORT...

Make a powerful statement against the prison industry, homophobia, and the apathy of queers around you by helping out an organization that sends free books to Transgendered, Bisexual, Lesbian, and Gay inmates. LOCKED OUT, a fledgling organization in co-operation and with assistance from the PRISONERS LITERATURE PROJECT, needs volunteers, supporters, and donations of books, money, etc. We are an all-volunteer, collectively based, non-partisan group of people who are committed to assisting queer individuals cope with the brutality and injustice of the modern American prison system through books, literature, and correspondence. If you want to do something positive for queer prisoners and society in general, please come help us send books and write letters, but most importantly, get the word out to queer prisoners that we are here to help!

If you can help or have any questions, please email Kevin at zapoid@lanminds.com or write us in care of Bound Together Books, 1369 Haight Street, San Francisco 94117. Please drop off book donations (indicate that they are for Locked Out) at Bound Together Books. Especially needed are queer books of all types. Prisoners can also write us at the above address. We use the utmost discretion unless otherwise notified.

Plea, Please Me

At the last OOC brunch I presented the group with questions concerning Out of Time. Our mailing list has tripled and so have our costs. We now mail OOT to 1500 people. Funding OOT is difficult. Grants for newsletters do not exist, and believe me we have tried to get them. We don't want to sell ads; there is never enough space as it is in an issue. Selling subscriptions is out of the question. OOC asked me to ask you, our devoted readers, the following questions:

1. Do you read Out of Time?
2. Do you think it's worth \$500 to print and send each time?
3. Does OOT have information you don't find anywhere else?
4. Do you have any ideas how to disseminate information about prisons, political prisoners, and prison related issues besides OOT's format?
5. Would you like to help fund OOT? How?

Send your reply to Out of Control, 3543 18th Street, #30, San Francisco, CA 94110 or email outoftime@igc.org.

Thanks for your help, Blue.

OUT OF TIME

Freedom for Alejandrina Torres

by Susan Rosenberg

This has been a most incredible year in the struggle to free political prisoners. It has been a banner year. The clemency of the Puerto Rican political prisoners was a people's victory. And how often can we say that these days given the strength of the government and all the forces of power and control? The tireless work of the groups of people - The National Committee to Free the Puerto Rican POW's - and all the others, who since the moment of their capture in 1980 and then in the intensified effort since 1990 has proved itself. Yet, their release has another side. A side of unfinished business and more work. Carlos Alberto Torres and the others are still inside and the conditions of their release need changing. Both of these are still to be won. And this doesn't include the deeper political struggle their release is connected to such as, Vieques, the status of Puerto Rico, and democracy for all Puerto Ricans in Puerto Rico and here.

But because this victory was my victory too, and because I had the great fortune of knowing Alejandrina Torres and living and doing time with her for 14 years, I want to describe to you what her release was like in here. To do that and to draw a picture you need a bit of background. Prison life is not like free life. It is horrible Institutional monotony, and a never ending deadening of the spirit. It is unrelenting in the control of peoples labor, time, and relations. Some people lose their minds in prison, some people take meds and hope that it gets them through, some people line the hole, and some people try and cast light around them. It is those people the last group that refuse to be broken. They never stop hoping, struggling and living to the fullest. They make a difference - Alejandrina made a difference. Her generosity of spirit in the political struggles and in how she lived her daily life always amazed me. Her life-sustaining visions never got narrow, and her eye was always on the prize of the collective goal; how would the political prisoners struggle propel the anti-colonial Struggle in Puerto Rico.

The Latina or Hispanic women population here in this place contains many different elements. It is a population that brings all the differences from the world into a daily existence. There are religious, national, political differences, and there are all kinds of rivalries. There are Colombians, Mexicans, Dominicans, Cubans, Puerto Ricans and a few from Peru, Argentina, and Venezuela. They co-exist in a tentative state and they make up over a third of the population of 1100 women. The reality is that unity is not a very strong point. But for one brief shining moment all the differences and negatives fell away and the underlying

solidarity the common history, and the common daily life we have here took over.

The day Alejandrina was informed of the clemency offer by the BOP officials was the same day it was released to the News media. The White House had its press conference, announced it, and all hell broke loose. The Spanish language TV news Telemundo played it at five that evening. Women who had been watching it in the recreation room in the gym came flying out, running (which is definitely against the rules) to the unit where both Alex and I lived. They were screaming, tears streaming down their faces, "Alexita, Alexita," so excited that's all they could say. Then magically all the TV's in the TV room went to the news channels and the whole unit of over 70 people crammed into every available inch of space. The cries of joy were fantastic. After a while we went outside onto the compound and sat on a bench. The air was warm and the trees were moving with the gentle summer wind. And as we sat, one woman came up to Alejandrina hugged and congratulated her, then another, and another, all the women from Latin America. And then a line formed, an informal one, but a line nonetheless and every woman came up to her "Dona Alex, me allegre," and all the Puerto Rican stood watch. Women were smiling, crying, laughing, everyone's eyes bright and happy. Other women who Alex had done time with longer, African-American, and white women all came to say something. This went on until almost lockdown.

For a few hours the joy, the recognition of a real victory for political prisoners, for all prisoners, the stature of a patriot and national hero was on public view. The real truth of who she was and what she stood for, as opposed to a prison number, couldn't be denied. No official stopped or intervened, a few said their congratulations, and fewer really meant it, but they were not what was important. It was a thrilling experience to actually feel the power of the people penetrate these stone walls and barbed wire. In the 15 years I've been in, I never felt anything like it. I don't expect I'll ever feel it quite like that again.

I don't know how we make it happen for Leonard Peltier or for Mumia Abu-Jamal or for all the others remaining behind the walls. But I know that the Puerto Ricans were freed because they optimized the anti-colonial struggle, sentiment, and history of Puerto Rico. And I know it can be done. The new millennium demands it.

Vieques...

...is a small island, 33,000 acres (22,605 acres occupied by the US military), a municipality of Puerto Rico. It is a beautiful, tropical island, at least in the center 6 miles where the population of 9,400 is sandwiched between a target range and a live ammunition storage facility. One of the oldest human skeletons in the new world was found on Vieques showing that it had been populated 1,000's of years before the Spaniards came to conquer the indigenous people and settle down. It was once rich with archaeological sites, pristine beaches, fertile land and an abundant fishing industry. Now, after almost 60 years of US military occupation, there are places on the island with more craters per square mile than on the surface of the moon.

In 1941, the US Navy began its expropriation campaign, literally removing people from their land and homes, such as was done with the Native American people on the continent. Since then the eastern part of Vieques has been used for target practice, live ammunition bombing, for every major war excursion the US has taken part in, such as the invasion of Grenada or the more recent bombings in Kosovo. Napalm and radioactive bullets have been used on this tiny island. The results of all this has been ecological devastation. The Navy also rents the target range to other countries. In one year it made \$80,000,000 with not one cent shared with the inhabitants of Vieques. On the western side of the island are stored tons of ammunition. The implications of this are obvious; a nuclear confrontation spells genocide for an entire people.

The effects upon the Viequenses and the environment have been catastrophic. The people do not live in peace; nerves are always on edge. The fishing industry has been all but destroyed by Navy ships. In one night alone Navy propellers destroyed 130 buoys indicating where fish traps were, ruining that particular harvest and costing these fishermen their expensive traps. But worse, those traps stayed on the sea floor continuing to trap fish for a year, devastating the fish population and the resources for income. There is no other major industry on Vieques. Cancer rate on the island is 26% higher than on the main island, which is higher than on the continent. Archaeological sites have been destroyed or are within Navy "property" (stolen from the Viequenses in my opinion), robbing a wealth of heritage from these people. And there have been accidents; the most famous today being the killing of David Sanes Rodríguez April 19th, 1999, by two wayward 500-pound bombs.

Since then there have been protesters on the firing range, living shields against further Navy bombing. Through 2 hurricanes and tropical storms they continue to camp out protecting their land with their bodies. At least 75% of Puerto Ricans are opposed to further Navy occupation including the governor of Puerto Rico who supports statehood for Puerto Rico as well as widespread support for the Vieques cause amongst US politicians and other North Americans.

This is just a brief summary of the damage caused by the military occupation. For more information, contact the Fellowship of Reconciliation at (415) 495-6334 or visit www.viequeslibre.org. Please join us in this urgent campaign to bring peace to Vieques, to return the land to the people, to restore their economy, and to remove the Navy from the island, before it starts the bombing once again. But it must take its live ammunition, the unexploded shells, the layers and layers of junk, debris and refuse left from its war games with it. Write, call and fax President Clinton telling him that you support immediate and 100% withdrawal of the Navy from Vieques. Honorable William Clinton, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, DC 20500, phone (202) 456-1111, fax (202) 456-2461, e-mail: president@whitehouse.gov

José López Honored

On Halloween, in Chicago (did you know they celebrate for 3 days and nites?), there was a wonderful TRIBUTE TO JOSÉ E. LÓPEZ. His 30 years of leadership in the Puerto Rican community is an incredible inspiration for all of us. There were more than 300 well wishers and supporters who represented a wide network of community groups, anti-imperialists, indigenous leaders, nationalists, political prisoners, progressive professors, as well as elected officials and religious leaders. The event went on for more than five hours and was highlighted by a special message from Alejandrina Torres, recently released prisoner of war. It was great to see Alex on the outside! OOC's own bo brown was a presenter, and we honored Jose with a beautiful vase by OOC's Diane Amaral.

bo also carried a message from fci dublin which follows:

JOSÉ LÓPEZ PRESENTE EN LA LUCHA PARA SIEMPRE!

Companero, your keen perceptions, knowledge, and insight have taught us so much thru-out these years. Your creativity in developing strategy to meet the community's need is a great example of Revolutionary values put into practice. Your determination to win the liberation of the prisoners of war, and the success of that struggle, are part of the reason for the enemy's bitter attack.

We are honored to stand with you on the side of the Puerto Rican people in the struggle for independence. The comradeship and generosity you have shown towards us and other political prisoners has strengthened us and warmed our hearts. Thank you for your solidarity, steadfastness, leadership and courage. VIVA PUERTO RICO LIBRE !!

by Marilyn Buck & Linda Evans, anti-imperialist political prisoners

by Denise Alvarado

LAWSUIT FILED AGAINST PAROLE BOARD

On November 2, Susan Rosenberg filed papers in federal court challenging the justice department and the parole commission for violating her due process. She had been denied parole based on unproven conspiracy allegations that had been dismissed by the government in 1985. Susan has been in prison for 14 years and the latest parole denial means 15 more, based only on allegations for which she was never tried, convicted or sentenced.

Support is urgently needed. For info, **The Campaign to Release Susan Rosenberg, 78 Bank St. #6, N.Y. NY 10014.** For tax deductible donations, make checks out to The Progressive Foundation, earmarked SRLSF. You can write Susan Rosenberg, #03684-016, FCI Danbury, Pembroke Station, Danbury, CT 06811



Susan Rosenberg, FCI Danbury, 1999.

*Let It All Hang Out Presents:
Robust and Rowdy
New Year's Eve Celebration of the Century
Dinner and Dance*

*Join Fat Dykes and friends
for a women-only celebration.*

*All women welcome. Location: Berkeley. For
more information call: 510/869-5588*

Resources for Prisoners and their Friends

1. **Sojourner: The Women's Forum** was created in 1975 by feminist activists as a voice for the women's liberation movement. They now look forward to their next quarter century of publishing news and commentary with the goal of eliminating sexism, racism, homophobia, economic injustice and any other forces that oppress and divide people.

Sojourner offers free subscriptions and pen pal ads to women in prison. They also print poems/stories/articles by women prisoners. **Sojourner** also has a new resource guide for women prisoners, free to all women in prison who request a copy. The guide includes contact info for over 200 groups and publications. For more info on their prison project, contact Erika Jones at **Sojourner**, 42 Seavers Ave. Jamaica Plain, MA 02130.

2. **Spirit of Crazy Horse** is a newspaper published by the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee (LPDC). It includes articles on Native American struggles and prison issues. There is always a column by Leonard Peltier. For subscription info, LPDC, PO Box 583, Lawrence KS 66044 or www.freepeltier.org

3. **Prisoner Activist Resource Center (PARC)** is an amazing organization that works on prison issues from a left-radical perspective. Their goals include: exposing the myths that sustain widespread injustices in prisons and in the

BOOK LIST FOR THE 12 DAZE OF X-MAS 1999

1. **INVENTING THE SAVAGE** by Luana Ross
2. **MY LIFE IS MY SUNDANCE** by Leonard Peltier
3. **LOCKDOWN AMERICA** by Christian Perini
4. **NO MORE PRISONS** by William Upski Wimscott
5. **THE CELLING OF AMERICA** by Daniel Burton Rose
6. **THE RICH GET RICHER & THE POOR GET PRISON**
by Jeffery Reiman
7. **WORSE THAN SLAVERY** by David Oshinsky
8. **SMOKE AND MIRRORS** by Dan Baum
9. **THE POLITICS OF HEROIN** by Alfred McCoy
10. **CRIMINAL INJUSTICE** edited by Elihu Rosenblatt
11. **NO EQUAL JUSTICE** by David Cole
12. **SOLEDAD BROTHER** by George Jackson

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and the Mumia Art Show. As much as possible, given the extents to which the government goes to isolate political prisoners, I felt like a member of a number of groups on the outside. All of that prepared me for life out here, and made the transition smoother.

But nothing can make the separation from my comrades inside smooth or bearable. Marilyn and Linda are not replaceable no matter how many wonderful 'rades and friends (not to mention a certain delightful lover) I have out here. While I am celebrating the first New Year (and Kwanzaa, etc.) that the Puerto Rican prisoners and I have spent out of prison in many years, my heart is still back in Dublin with my sisters there. All the pleasures and wonders of life out here are strikingly fresh, because while locked up, I never allowed myself to dwell on "what I was missing." Yet there's an undertone of sorrow to it all, a dull ache around the edges, because Linda, Marilyn, and other dear friends from behind the wall are absent.

Before I start ranting about what I think we need to do to move forward in the struggle to release all Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War, I'll end here with wishes to all for a happy and productive New Year. FREE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS! FREE MUMIA! VENCEREMOS! Laura Whitehorn

Silvia in Italy

On August 24, Silvia Baraldini was returned to Italy to serve out her sentence in an Italian prison. Dec. 12 is her birthday and she appreciates hearing from friends and supporters. Send mail to **Silvia Baraldini, Via Bartolo Longo 92, 00156 Roma, ITALY**

communities most affected by mass imprisonment; inspiring and motivating people to take positive action against the mass-incarceration system and for prisoners' human and civil rights; and providing practical support to activists who are taking such actions. One of their new projects is On the Outside (OTO). In collaboration with the National Radio Project, OTO will produce radio shows about prison issues and distribute them nationwide. Contact them at PARC, PO Box 339, Berkeley, CA 94701 or www.prisonactivist.org

4. **Death Penalty Focus of California** is an organization opposed to the death penalty. It is affiliated with the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty. Their goal is to increase public awareness about the cost and problems inherent in the use of the death penalty. They also publish a quarterly paper, **Sentry**. Contact them at 74 New Montgomery St. #250, S.F. CA 94105 or www.deathpenalty.org

5. **The National Clearinghouse for the Defense of Battered Women** is an important resource, information and advocacy center for battered women defendants, members of their defense teams and the public at large. They publish **Double-Time**, an excellent newsletter with a lot of information. Membership is \$35. free to women in prison. Write them at 125 S. 9th St. suite 302, Philadelphia, PA 19107

6. **Spear & Shield Publications** puts out a newsletter, **Crossroads**, with articles by and about political prisoners. Their address is 1340 W. Irving Park, suite 108, Chicago, IL 60613.

7. For people with computers: a web site that exposes in detail a specific horrible injustice of the so-called justice system. **Kemba Smith**, a young woman who received a 24.5 year prison sentence for conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine. She was a Hampton University student and, even according to the prosecution, never actually handled or used these drugs, and had never been in trouble with the law. The case of Ms Smith is a classic example of what is happening to a growing number of young Black women, currently the fastest growing segment of the prison population. Kemba's Story: <http://www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/Lobby/8899/index2.htm>.

8. **The Fire Inside** is the newsletter of the **California Coalition for Women Prisoners**. Their mission is to raise public consciousness about the cruel and inhumane conditions in women's prisons. They promote the leadership of and give voice to women prisoners and ex-prisoners. They do a lot of good work and welcome volunteers and contributions. Contact them at 100 MacAllister St. 3rd floor, S.F. CA 94102 for a subscription, free to women prisoners.

9. **California Prison Focus** publishes a quarterly, **Prison Focus**, that exposes the conditions of high security prisoners in CA and fights for prisoners' human rights. They have also printed a **Survivors' Manual**, written by prisoners and a companion video available on request. Members of the group visit prisoners and bring evidence and information out to be used in law suits and education efforts. For more, 2940 16th St. #100, S.F. CA 94103